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ALL-CIVILIAN CREW BLAST OFF INTO SPACE FOR 1ST PRIVATE SPACEWALK

SpaceX on Tuesday launched its Polaris Dawn mission, carrying a 4-member civilian crew, for the first spacewalk by non-professional astronauts

The mission, whose cost is not known, is jointly funded by US billionaire Jared Isaacman and SpaceX. Isaacman, the CEO of US firm Shift4 Payments, is accompanied by SpaceX engineers Anna Menon and Sarah Gillis, and retired US Air Force Lt Col Scott 'Kidd' Poteet | P12

2 years
THE QUARTET UNDERWENT RIGOROUS TRAINING FOR 24 MONTHS FOR THE MISSION

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YECHURY IN CRITICAL CONDITION

CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury's condition is critical and he is on respiratory support at AIIMS Delhi, his party said. He has acute respiratory tract infection

Students clash with security personnel during their protest over the recent violence, in Imphal | PTI

50 protesters hurt, Net banned in Imphal valley

Protests in Manipur over fresh spurt of violence

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

OVER 50 protesting students were injured in Manipur on Tuesday when the police used force to thwart their attempt to march to Raj Bhavan even as the state government imposed a five-day ban on internet services in five Imphal valley districts. The government also ordered the closure of all colleges till Thursday. Curfew was reimposed in Imphal East and Imphal West districts while prohibitory orders under Section 163 BNSS were clamped in Thoubal district.

A girl student sustained grievous injuries, a senior government official said, adding she was admitted in the ICU of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal.

For the second straight day, students attempted to march to Raj Bhavan but they were stopped by security personnel. This led to scuffles and the personnel dispersed the protesters by firing tear gas shells. The students of Manipur University also took out another protest march.

The protests on Monday had turned violent when the students threw stones outside Raj Bhavan.

The students are on the streets demanding the removal of state's security advisor and director general of police for failing to protect the life and property of citizens. Hundreds of them have been camping at Khwairamband Women Market.

The home department said internet services had been suspended "to thwart the design and activities of anti-national and anti-social elements, maintain peace and communal harmony and prevent any loss of life or danger to public/private property."

2 MORE CRPF BATTALIONS
The Centre is deploying two fresh CRPF battalions comprising about 2,000 personnel in Manipur - one from Warangal and the other from Latehar in Jharkhand

DRONE BOMB PROBE TEAM
A joint team of officers from the CRPF, the BSF and some independent technical experts will study the drones and improvised rockets used to launch attacks in some places

Medics defy SC fiat, reject Didi's invite

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kolkata

PROTESTING junior doctors in West Bengal on Tuesday defied the Supreme Court's directive to resume work by 5 pm, saying they would continue with their 'cease work' protest till their demands are fulfilled and the rape-murder victim of the RG Kar Hospital gets justice. The medics also rejected an 'insulting' email invite from a state government official for talks with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to resolve the impasse.

An email sent by Health Secretary N S Nigam on Tuesday evening read: "Your small delegation (maximum 10 persons) may visit Nabanna now to meet government representatives."

During the day, the protesting doctors marched to Swasthya Bhavan, the headquarters of the health department, and staged a sit-in outside the office building. One of the protesters said the official could have come out and spoken to them in person, instead of sending an email.

Junior doctors march towards Swasthya Bhawan during a protest in Kolkata | PTI

Dr Debasish Halder, who organised a sit-in, said the communication was insensitive, adding: "We find no reason to reply to this mail."

Another medic said: "We got the mail from the health secretary, whose resignation we seek. This is an insult."

Meanwhile, RG Kar hospital authorities issued notices to 51 doctors, including senior residents and professors, accusing them of intimidation and disrupting the institution's democratic atmosphere. They have been asked to appear before an inquiry panel on Wednesday.

Wg Cdr booked for raping jr officer in J&K

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE J&K police have registered a first information report (FIR) against a Wing Commander at the Air Force station here after a woman flying officer accused him of rape and mental harassment.

The FIR was lodged at the Budgam Police Station under Section 376(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which pertains to aggravated rape by persons in positions of authority. An Inspector-rank police officer is overseeing the probe.

The complainant alleged that she was sexually assaulted on December 31, 2023 during a New Year's party held at the Officers' Mess at the Air Force station in Srinagar. Both officers are posted there. "On the guise of giving me a gift, the Wing Commander asked me to collect the gift from his room. Once I went inside the room, the Wing Commander forced himself on me and sexually assaulted me. I tried to resist it in all possible ways and managed to run away."

EXPRESS READ

UBP will get funds if available: Centre

Bengaluru: The Union government has clarified that the release of Rs 5,300 crore for the Upper Bhadra Project (UBP) depends on the availability of funds, geographic distribution under the project scheme and priority. Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil said the Centre's response is almost like it is refusing funds for the project. "The next course will be decided in the next cabinet meeting," he said | P6

Nagendra prime accused in ED chargesheet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has named former minister B Nagendra as the prime accused in its chargesheet submitted to the Special Court in the multi-crore scam in Karnataka Maharishi Valmiki ST Development Corporation.

The Ballari MLA has been reportedly charged with spending funds to the tune of Rs 20 crore during the last Lok Sabha election in his constituency.

The chargesheet was reportedly submitted to the special court on Monday afternoon. It is learnt that the ED has named over 20 people as accused in the chargesheet. However, Raichur Rural MLA Basanagouda Daddal, chairman of the corporation, has not been named in the chargesheet. P4

C'magaluru doctor assaulted; patient, his sister arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chikkamagaluru

TENSION prevailed on the premises of Malle Gowda General Hospital here on Tuesday morning after a duty doctor was allegedly assaulted by a patient's sister.

Police arrested the patient and his sister, identified as Irfan and Tasleem of Chikkamagaluru. They were produced before a local court, which remanded them in judicial custody till September 18.

Irfan, who suffered injuries in a clash, was brought to the hospital around 10.45 am by his family members. Subsequently, orthopaedic surgeon BS Venkatesh took him to the casualty ward for examination.

Meanwhile, Irfan's family members and relatives entered the ward and refused to go out though Dr Venkatesh requested them to do so. An argument broke out between Dr Venkatesh and Irfan's family members and Tasleem threw her footwear at the doctor. Despite efforts by paramedical staff to calm her down, Tasleem got more agitated. She grabbed the doctor by his collar and assaulted him stating that he had insulted her. CONTINUED: P5

Doctors, nurses and hospital staff protest in Chikkamagaluru on Tuesday

DRUNK DOC GOES ON RAMPAGE
Vijayapura: A doctor at Shiranal Ayush Health Centre in Chadchana of Vijayapura district came to the centre drunk on Tuesday and allegedly went on a rampage, breaking windows and furniture there. After this, health inspector Dr Narayan Rathod lost consciousness and collapsed. Sources said this is not the first instance of his misconduct |P5

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